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tions of the growth and power of the laboring class. Labor difficulties soon led to legislation in behalf of labor. Along with labor unrest came the origin and growth of socialism in Illinois.

During the past quarter of a century political development toward a more efficient government has been a slow but steady growth in Illinois. The merit system of appointment to civil service in 1895, and the reorganization of principal administrative services on a more integrated and systematic basis have been especially noticeable. The governor's powers over both legislation and administration have been increased during the past twenty-five years in Illinois. As to taxation, the system in Illinois is rather antiquated, for it was introduced when the state was almost purely agricultural. Undervaluation is the chief defect in the taxation system.

With the growth of wealth in Illinois has come the application of this wealth to education, culture and art. The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 was a decided stimulus to the social development of the state. In the few years following university buildings were erected, libraries, museums and art institutes were erected and made adequate for the needs of a twentieth century people. A new outdoor life developed in Illinois, 1890-1900, and brought to the front all kinds of modern sports and athletics.

Illinois, in spite of her large German element and the general dissatisfaction at first, achieved a good record in the World War. From point of view of international relations, Illinois is the most important state in the Mississippi Valley. During the World War the citizenry of Illinois responded with growing enthusiasm and achieved a great record both at home and abroad.

The history of the people of Illinois from 1893 to 1918 is clearly stated and is easy to understand. There are a great many details given, but these do not detract from the interest of the account. The story of the state and people of Illinois from 1893 to 1918 is typical of the development of the American state.

HENRIETTA JANE ASKREN

*History and Doctrines of the Church of the Brethren.*

By OTTO WINGER, President of Manchester College.  
Brethren Publishing House. Elgin, Illinois. 1920, pp. 320.

This is a brief textbook containing the history government, doctrines, ordinances and ceremonies of the Brethren church. In many ways these folk are unique. Organized at Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708, under the shadow of ecclesiastical power they still show the influence of this early discipline. Like the Quakers, they take no part in war, and little, if any, in politics. They settle their difficulties out of court when possible, join no oathbound or secret societies, attend no places of entertainment for pleasure, live the simple life, frugal almost to the point of severity, practice close communion, triple forward immersion in baptism, greet with the holy kiss, receive with the right hand of fellowship, wash each other's feet, shake hands and kiss at the celebration of the Lord's Supper, believe in the real presence and practice more democracy of a kind and charity than any other church.

Under the necessities of modern life the Brethren are breaking gradually from many of their ancient customs. As a class they are among the most prosperous farmers in the state. On their farms are to be found the best machinery including automobiles. Excepting their antipathy for the barber and the tailor one can scarcely recognize them among worldly folks. Much of the money spent foolishly by ordinary people is now being used by them on education, missions and charity. The book in review covers the field indicated in a plain, dignified, straightforward style. It is to be hoped that Dr. Winger will favor us with a more philosophic study of the German religious revolt beginning in the mysticism prevalent about the time of Luther and taking on many forms and names both in Germany and America. He has the solid qualities of scholarship united with the sympathy and insight to give us an invaluable aid in this difficult field of history.

P. M. NKNEMAKER

*The Rise of Methodism in the West, Being the Journal of the Western Conference, 1800-1811.* Edited with notes and introduction by WILLIAM WARREN SWEET, Professor of History, DePauw University, Cincinnati, 1920, pp. 207.

In Part I of this little book the author gives an interesting sketch of the organization of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the coming of the aggressive Circuit Rider into